

COURT NO. 1  
ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

OA 2029/2023  
with  
MA 2926/2023

MWO (HFO) Sita Ram Pal (Retd) ..... Applicant  
Versus  
Union of India & Ors. .... Respondents

For Applicant : Mr. Ramniwas Bansal, Advocate  
For Respondents : Mr. Harish V Shankar, Advocate

CORAM

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJENDRA MENON, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE LT GEN C.P. MOHANTY, MEMBER (A)

ORDER

MA 2926/2023

Keeping in view the averments made in this application and finding the same to be bona fide, in the light of the decision in the case of Union of India and others Vs. Tarsem Singh [(2008) 8 SCC 648], the instant application is allowed condoning the delay in filing the OA.

2. The MA stands disposed of.

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3. Invoking the jurisdiction of this Tribunal under Section 14 of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007, the applicant has filed this application and the reliefs claimed in Para 8 read as under:

*“(a) To quash and set aside the Applicant’s RMB proceedings to the extent the order denies grant of Disability element of Pension to the applicant.*

*(b) To set aside the impugned order and direct the respondents to grant the disability element of pension @ 30%, broad-banded to 50%, along with all consequential benefits, with arrears and interest @12% p.a. w.e.f. date of discharge, by treating disease as attributable to and aggravated by military service, in view of the Hon’ble Apex Court Judgment in Rajbir Singh (Supra) & Dharamvir Singh (Supra), or*

*(c) To pass such orders, direction/directions as this Hon’ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in accordance with law.”*

4. The applicant was enrolled into the Indian Air Force on 14.11.1970 and discharged from service on 31.10.2009. The applicant was examined by a duly constituted RMB on 19.11.2008, which held his disability of Primary Hypertension @ 30% for life and it was held that the disability was neither attributable to nor aggravated by service. The applicant submits that for the purpose of Primary Hypertension, the disability has been assessed @ 30% as is evident from the medical records. The composite disability for the ailment has been assessed at 30% for life.

5. Keeping in view the consistent stand taken by this Tribunal based on the law laid down by the Hon’ble Supreme Court in the case of Dharamvir Singh Vs. Union of India and others [(2013) 7 SCC 316] that Primary Hypertension may arise even in a peace area due to stress and strain of service, we see no reason not to allow the prayer of the applicant with regard

to the disability Primary Hypertension, which has been assessed by the competent Medical Board @ 30%.

6. The respondents are directed to grant disability element of pension for the disability of Primary Hypertension to the applicant @ 30% for life which be rounded off to 50% for life from the date of retirement, i.e., 31.10.2009, in terms of the judicial pronouncement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Union of India Vs. Ram Avtar (Civil Appeal No.418/2012) decided on 10.12.2014. However, the arrears will be restricted to three years from the date of filing of this OA or the date of applicant's retirement/discharge, whichever is lesser, in keeping with the law laid down in the case of Union of India and others Vs. Tarsem Singh [(2008) 8 SCC 648].

7. Accordingly, we allow this OA holding that the applicant is entitled to disability element of pension @ 30% for the disability of Primary Hypertension rounded off to 50% for life and direct the respondents to calculate, sanction and issue necessary PPO to the applicant within four months from the date of receipt of copy of this order failing which the applicant shall be entitled to interest @ 6% per annum till the date of payment.

8. No order as to costs.

9. Pending miscellaneous application(s), if any, stands closed.

Pronounced in open Court on this 4 day of September, 2024.

[JUSTICE RAJENDRA MENON]  
CHAIRPERSON

[LT GEN C.P. MOHANTY]  
MEMBER (A)

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